

Dear Judiciary Committee Members;

I'm hoping that you will look favorably on House Bill 4133. Having served many years in Law Enforcement both in unpaid and paid positions I have been able to look at all aspects of law enforcement. I have served as a reserve officer, special deputy, marine patrol officer, and lastly as a Corrections Officer for the Arenac County Sheriff Office. I spent 10 years in Corrections working in and among inmates who had not been sentenced as well as sentenced inmates.

Any time a correction officer does his job correctly and according to policy they are sure to upset some inmates to one degree or another. I myself have been threatened and also had my family threatened while performing my duties. Currently MCOLES Certified Officers are granted exemption from pistol free zones once they retire. These officers prior to retiring spend relatively little time with offenders in comparison with the time Correction Officers spend with inmates who have not been sentenced and also those who have been sentenced.

A Correction Officer could spend up to a year with an inmate who is sentenced to a county jail. While I was an employed Sheriff's Correction Officer I was exempt from pistol free zones. I feel that since I retired in good standing I should still be able to be exempt from pistol free zones as should every other Correction Officer who retires in good standing and has a Concealed Pistol License. My wife and I are constantly meeting former inmates while we are in our local community as well as neighboring communities while shopping or having an evening out.

I have been licensed for many years to carry a concealed firearm. I originally had a general permit until the law was changed. I take my wife to Saginaw to an Infusion Center at least once a month for treatment which results in my being in a hospital. I would hate to have to remove my weapon and leave it in my vehicle while I accompany her for her treatment. Luckily I am still serving as a reserve deputy on a volunteer basis and as such I am still allowed to carry in pistol free zones.

I know my wife and I, along with all fellow correction officers and other officers covered by this bill, giving them exemption to the pistol free zones would be immensely grateful to you for passing this legislation.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

William S. Mader

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